

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172470  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:PDW  
APPROVED BY NEA:HHAUNDERS  
S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 172470

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, LE, IS, SY

SUBJECT: LEBANON: REPORTED ATTITUDES OF CHRISTIAN  
MILITIAS

REF: DRAPER/LANE/PARKER TELECONS

1. SAUNDERS GOT IN TOUCH BY TELEPHONE WITH ISRAELI EM-  
BASSY DCM BAR-ON TO SHARE IMPRESSIONS OF LEBANESE  
SITUATION. SAUNDERS SAID THAT, AS A NATURAL FOLLOW-UP  
TO OUR REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SYRIANS ON JULY 6, PARKER  
HAD TRIED TO CONTACT SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN  
LEADERS TODAY TO URGE THAT THEY OBSERVE STRICTLY THE  
CEASEFIRE AND AVOID PROVOCATIONS IN ORDER TO GIVE A FULL  
OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PARTIES TO WORK OUT A BASIC SOLUTION  
OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. BECAUSE OF SECURITY AND

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 172470

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS, HE WAS NOT TOO SUCCESSFUL, AND  
OUR IMPRESSION OF THE ATTITUDES OF THE MILITARY LEADERS  
TODAY IS CLEARLY IMPERFECT. WE HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION,  
WOWEVER, FROM THESE LIMITED CONTACTS AND FROM SOME OTHER  
INTELLIGENCE THAT SOME CHRISTIANS WERE FEELING SOMEWHAT  
COCKY AS A RESULT OF THE ISRAELI OVERFLIGHTS AND STATEMENTS  
YESTERDAY. SAUNDERS SAID WE WERE CONCERNED THAT THE

CHRISTIANS MIGHT BE IN A MOOD TO IGNORE THE CEASEFIRE AND GO ALL OUT AGAINST THE SYRIANS.

2. BAR-ON SAID THE ISRAELI IMPRESSION WAS DIFFERENT. THE CHRISTIANS YESTERDAY WERE DESPERATE. THE ISRAELI OVERFLIGHTS AND STATEMENTS CAME IN RESPONSE TO CHRISTIAN APPEALS.

3. STRESSING REPEATEDLY THAT OUR INFORMATION WAS LIMITED AND IMPERFECT, SAUNDERS SAID THAT SOME OF THE MILITARY COMMANDERS MIGHT BELIEVE THEY COULD DRAW THE ISRAELIS IN IF NEW AND MAJOR FIGHTING ERUPTED WITH THE SYRIANS. SINCE OUR OWN COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE CHRISTIANS HAVE NOT BEEN ADEQUATE, HE SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF, THROUGH ISRAELI CHANNELS, ISRAEL COULD EXPLORE THE SITUATION AND SEE THAT THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING AMONG THE CHRISTIANS AS TO WHAT ISRAEL WOULD DO. NEITHER ISRAEL NOR THE U.S. WOULD SEE ANY VALUE IN FURTHER CONFRONTATION.

3. BAR-ON INDICATED HE WOULD PASS ON THIS EXCHANGE TO ISRAEL.

4. SUBSEQUENT TO ABOVE EXCHANGE, LEBANESE CITIZEN HERE IN REGULAR TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH BEIRUT AND MILITIAS VOLUNTEERED THAT CHRISTIANS WERE INDEED FEISTY AND WERE COUNTING ON ISRAELI SUPPORT IF FIGHTING BROKE OUT  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 172470

AGAIN. HE SAID MILITIAS WOULD BE SEEKING TO PROVOKE THE SYRIANS AND WERE IN NO MOOD TO COMPROMISE. HE REFERRED TO CHAMOUN'S STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT.

5. AMBASSADOR LEWIS AT HIS DISCRETION MAY WISH TO GET IN TOUCH WITH WEIZMAN TO REPEAT THE POINTS SAUNDERS HAD MADE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHRISTIANS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE172470  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MDRAPER:PDW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014